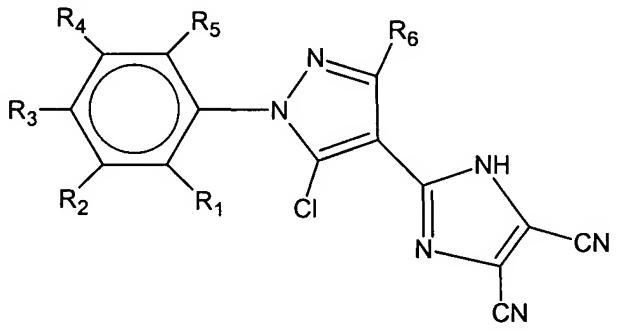
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently amended) A method for synthesizing 5-chloro-l-aryl-4-(4,5-dicyano-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-3-alkyl-1H-pyrazol compounds of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R_1 to R_5, which are identical or different, each represent a group selected from the group consisting of:

[[*]] - a hydrogen atom,

[[*]] - a halogen atom, and

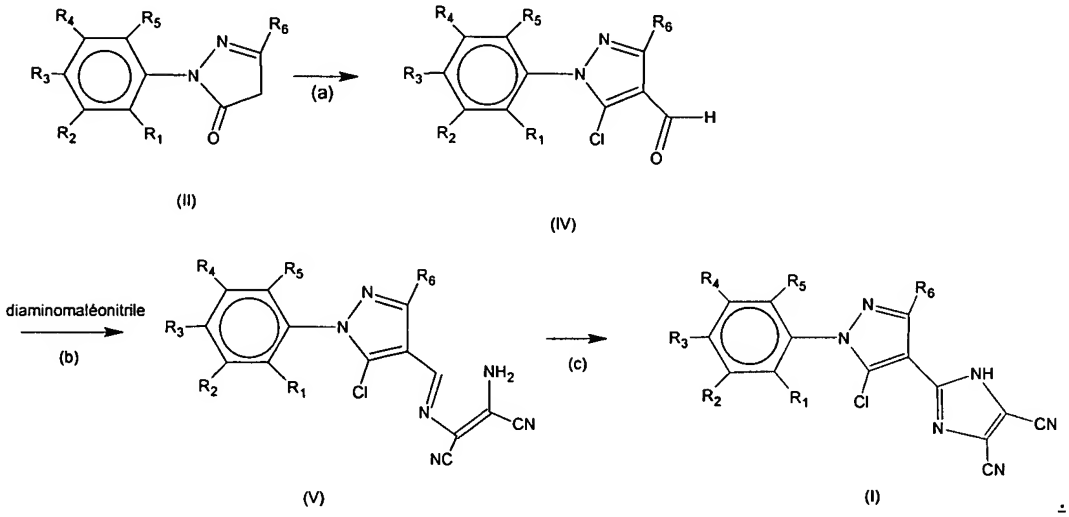
[[*]] - a radical corresponding to the formula -(X)n-R_7, in which X represents a group selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, sulfinyl radical and sulfonyl radical; n is 0 or 1; and R_7 represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, which are identical or different, the alkyl radical comprising 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

R_6 represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical comprising from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, which are identical or different, which method comprises the steps of:

(a) converting a pyrazolin-5-one compound of the formula (II) to a l-aryl-3-alkyl-4-carboxaldehyde-5-chloropyrazol compound of the formula (IV) in one step by a Vilsmeier treatment in the presence of $POCl_3$ and DMF,

(b) converting the aldehyde of the formula (IV) to a 1-aryl-3-alkyl-4-[(2-amino-1,2-dicyanoethenylimino)methyl]-5-chloropyrazole compound of the formula (V) by condensing the aldehyde of the formula (IV) with diaminomaleonitrile, and

(c) oxidatively cyclizing the imine of the formula (V) with a hypochlorite to produce the compound of the formula I as shown below:



19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein step (a) is carried out by treating the compound of the formula (II) in DMF in the presence of 20 to 40 molar equivalents of $POCl_3$.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~about~~ step (a) is carried out by treating the compound of the formula (II) in DMF in the presence of 25 to 35 molar equivalents ~~are used~~ of $POCl_3$.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein step (a) is carried out by treating the compound of the formula (II) in DMF in the presence of 30 molar equivalents ~~are used~~ of $POCl_3$.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the (II)/DMF ratio is between 1 and 2.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the ratio of (II/DMF) is between 1-1.2.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein step (b) is carried out in a solvent medium at a temperature of between 0 and 70°C.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein step (b) is carried out in a methanolic medium with acid catalysis.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the catalyst is trifluoroacetic acid.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein step (c) is carried out by treating the compound of the formula (V) with a hypochlorite comprising an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal hypochlorite or an alkyl hypochlorite, in a hydroxylated aliphatic solvent, at a temperature of between -5°C and 25°C.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the temperature is between 0°C and 5°C.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the hypochlorite is sodium hypochlorite ~~is used~~.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein step (c) is carried out by treating the compound of the formula (V) with 1 to 5 molar equivalents of hypochlorite relative to the compound of the formula (V) ~~are used~~.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein step (c) is carried out by treating the compound of the formula (V) with 2 to 3 molar equivalents ~~are used~~ of hypochlorite relative to the compound of the formula (V).

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the compound of the formula (V) is treated:

in methanol,

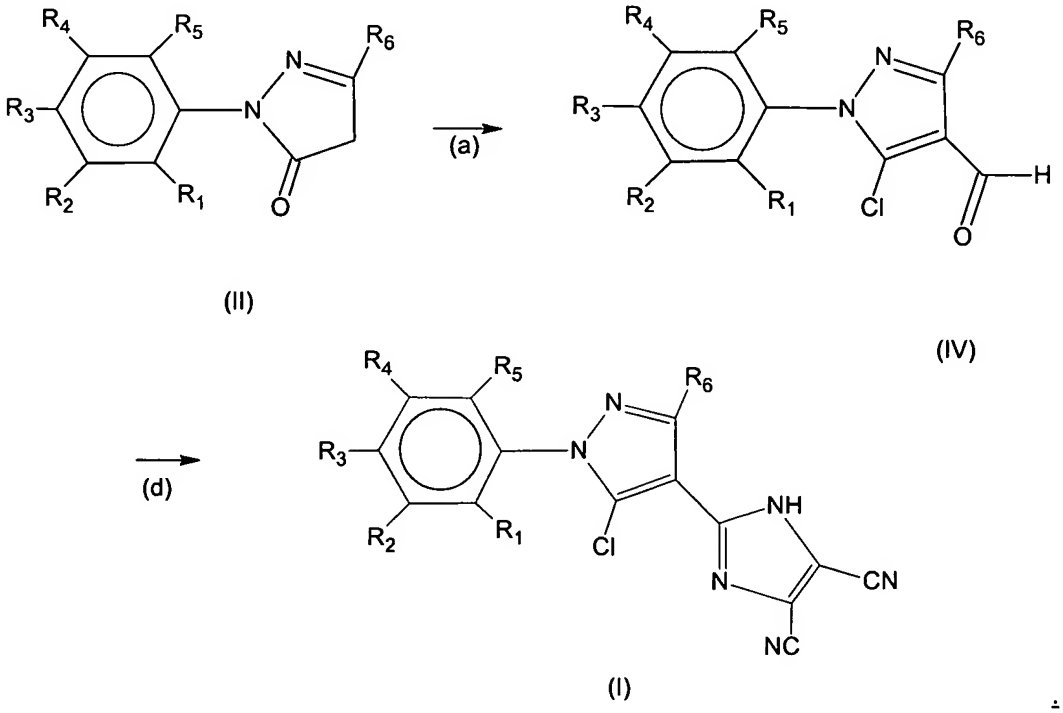
at a molar concentration of (V) ranging from 0.005 M to 0.1 M,

with a hypochlorite in an amount ranging from 1 to 5 molar equivalents with respect to the compound of the formula (V), the hypochlorite being in an aqueous solution having a concentration ranging from 1 to 5 M.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the compound of the formula (V) is treated in methanol at a molar concentration ranging from 0.01M to 0.08M.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the compound of the formula (V) is treated in methanol at a molar concentration ranging from 0.02 M to 0.06M.

35. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein steps (b) and (c) are carried out in a single step (d), in the same reactor, without isolation of the intermediate product (V), as shown in the reaction scheme below:



36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, which comprises:

(a) in a first step, converting the pyrazolin-5-one compound of the formula (II) to the 1-aryl-3-alkyl-4-carboxaldehyde-5-chloropyrazol compound of the formula (IV) in one step by Vilsmeier treatment in the presence of $POCl_3$ and DMF, and

(d) in a second step, successively treating the compound of the formula (IV) with diaminomaleonitrile and then with a hypochlorite.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein step (d) is carried out in a hydroxylated aliphatic solvent medium, with, firstly, for the formation of the imine with diaminomaleonitrile, a molar concentration of substrate of between 0.15 and 0.2 M, with an acid catalyst present in proportions of between 0.02 and 0.2 molar equivalent; and then, secondly, for oxidative cyclization and formation of the imidazolyl ring, dilution to a molar concentration of substrate of between 0.01 and 0.08 M, and the use of 2 to 3 molar equivalents of sodium hypochlorite having a concentration ranging from 2 M to 5 M.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the acid catalyst is trifluoroacetic acid.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein in the formula (I), n=0.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein one or more of the following conditions are met:

R_1 to R_5 which are identical or different, represent a group selected from the group consisting of:

[[*]] - a hydrogen atom,

[[*]] - a halogen atom, and

[[*]] - a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical R_7, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, which are identical or different, the alkyl radical comprising 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

R_6 represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein one or more of the following conditions are met:

R_1 to R_5 which are identical or different, represent a group selected from the group consisting of:

[[*]] - a hydrogen atom,

[[*]] - a chlorine atom, and

[[*]] - a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl radical R_7, optionally substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, the alkyl radical comprising 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

R_6 represents a radical selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, tert-butyl and isopropyl.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~product~~ compound of the formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of:

5-chloro-1-(2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-4-(4,5-dicyano-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrazol,

5-chloro-1-(2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-4-(4,5-dicyano-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-3-isopropyl-1H-pyrazol,

5-chloro-1-(2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-4-(4,5-dicyano-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-3-ethyl-1H-pyrazol, and

5-chloro-1-(2,6-dichloro-4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-4-(4,5-dicyano-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-3-tert-butyl-1H-pyrazol.